REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected. Claims 3 and 4 are allowed.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §103

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hashimoto (U.S. 5,847,907) in view of Suzuki et al. (U.S. 6,650,941).

The present invention relates to a method of evaluating the positioning accuracy of a magnetic head tester that tests the performance of a magnetic head mounted in a magnetic disc drive. In this method of evaluating the positioning accuracy of a magnetic head tester, tests are conducted to measure the performance of a magnetic head (14) by carrying out read and write operations on a magnetic medium (12) using the magnetic head (14). A number of GAP profiles are acquired by repeatedly carrying out a GAPS test that measures a GAP offset amount for the magnetic head (14). The GAP offset measures the offset between the write head and read head. A GAP offset fluctuation amount is calculated from the acquired GAP profiles, and the calculation result is set as an index for evaluating the position reproducibility of the magnetic head. Therefore, the measured GAP offset is merely used as data for evaluating the magnetic head tester.

Hashimoto describes a recording/reproduction apparatus equipped with an integrated head. FIG. 6 of Hashimoto shows a slippage (offset) between the geometric center line (29) passing through the inductive write element gap (5) and the geometric center line (30) of the MR

read element 10. This offset is defined as a geometric difference (31) between the write and read

modes different from the magnetic difference (26) in FIG. 5.

Suzuki et al. describes a system and method for setting a read/write offset. Column 1,

line 61 through column 2, line 9 of Suzuki et al. states.

> The write offset is an offset amount of read head Hr from a reference
> position (for example, a center of track width) when the data is read from the disk.
> The RW offset is the shift amount between write head Hw and read head Hr in a
> radial direction. If the write offset is zero, the offset amount of read head Hr from
> a reference position when the data is read, and the shift amount between write
> head Hw and read head Hr become equal. In addition, if the write offset is not
> zero, the offset amount of read head Hr from the reference position at the time of
> data reproduction has a value found by adding the write offset to the shift amount
> between write head Hw and read head Hr. In the RW offset, the shift amount
> between write head Hw and read head Hr is the critical value. Therefore, it is
> assumed that the RW offset refers to the shift amount between write head Hw and
> read head Hr in a radial direction of a disk.

However, Applicant could not find in Suzuki et al. a reference where "the GAP offset

fluctuation amount is equal to a GAP offset maximum value minus a GAP offset minimum value"

as recited in claim 1 or "the write core width fluctuation amount is equal to a write core width

maximum value minus a write core width minimum value" as recited in claim 2. However, the

Examiner asserts that it would be obvious to find such maximum and minimum values from the

plurality of values taken. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner. There is no

suggestion in Suzuki et al. of a GAP offset maximum value (A1), a GAP offset minimum value

(A2), a write core width maximum value (B1) and a write core width minimum value (B2) as

illustrated in Figure 3 of the present application. Thus, an object of the cited references is to recude

the offset caused by the GAP. The technical idea of evaluating accuracy of a magnetic head tester is not disclosed nor suggested in any cited reference at all. Therefore, Applicant traverses the Examiner's grounds of rejection.

Conclusion

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, KRATZ, QUINTOS,
HANSON & BROOKS, LLP

George N. Stevens
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 36,938

GNS/nrp
Atty. Docket No. **040524**
Suite 1000
1725 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 659-2930

23850

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

H:\HOME\GSTEVENS\04\040524\116 AMENDMENT